

Job 38:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?

Analysis

"That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?" God continues questioning about light and darkness—can Job guide them to their boundaries and pathways? The imagery treats light and darkness as entities with domains and routes. This emphasizes God's comprehensive knowledge versus human ignorance of creation's workings. The rhetorical question teaches that if Job cannot manage basic created phenomena, he certainly cannot judge God's governance of moral and spiritual realities.

Historical Context

The question employs contemporary understanding of natural phenomena while pointing beyond to divine mystery. Ancient people recognized they couldn't control day/night cycles—only God could. This would humble any presumption that humans could comprehend or direct God's purposes in history or individual lives.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging our ignorance about creation's basic operations affect our confidence in judging God's ways?
2. What areas of life do you need to release from your control, trusting God who governs all?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	גָּבוֹל	וְ	אֶל	תַּקְרִיבוֹת	כִּי
H3588	That thou shouldest take	H413	it to the bound	H3588	
	H3947		H1366		
בֵּיתְךָ	נְתַבֵּב	וְתַ	תַּבְּדֵל	בֵּיתְךָ	
thereof and that thou shouldest know	the paths	to the house		H5410	H1004
H995					

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